

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07986 01 OF 02 241451Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FDRE-00 AGRE-00 AID-05
EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /063 W
-----101455 241524Z /46

R 241438Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0049
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07986

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SU
SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN

REF: A. STATE 129021; B. KHARTOUM 2314

1. MISSION HAS RAISED SUBJECT PRESENTED REF A WITH UNHCR DESK OFFICER FOR SUDAN, GEORGE IACOVOU, WHO HAS PERSONALLY VISITED CAMPS IN COUNTRY, AND WAS, IN FACT, THERE LAST AUGUST 16 DURING STATED PERIOD OF INDIANA GROUP VISIT. IACOVOU AT FIRST OBSERVED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL CAMPS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF GEDAREF, AND HE COULD NOT BE SURE WHICH ONE THE INDIANA GROUP HAD SEEN. HE ASSUMED INITIALLY, HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT BE THE TRANSIT CAMP AT WAD-EL-HILEIWU. ALTHOUGH ACTUAL POINT OF DEPARTMENT'S QUERY WAS DEALT WITH LATER IN DISCUSSION (SEE BELOW), IACOVOU'S REMARKS CONCERNING CAMP SITUATION IN SUDAN IN GENERAL IS CONSIDERED OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO RELAY TO DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY FOR BACKGROUND.

2. IACOVOU SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SMALL PROBLEM CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS FROM PORT SUDAN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GENEVA 07986 01 OF 02 241451Z

THE CAMPS, BUT THAT HE WOULD DISPUTE THAT THE SITUATION WAS OUT OF CONTROL EVEN LAST AUGUST, AND THAT IT IS CERTAINLY IN HAND AS OF NOW. HE SAID THAT UNHCR DOES HAVE A SMALL PROBLEM IN THAT IT WORKS EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT AS AN OPERATING PARTNER, AND THAT THE GOS ASSESSES THE NEEDS, RELAYING THEM TO UNHCR FOR SATISFACTION. IN HIS RECOLLECTION, THERE HAS BEEN NO SITUATION

IN WHICH UNHCR HAS DISPUTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF REQUIREMENTS IN REGARD TO THE REFUGEES.

3. THE SITUATION LAST AUGUST OF A HOLD UP IN DELIVERIES RESULTED FROM A TEMPORARY LACK OF TRUCKS DURING A HIATUS IN SEABORNE DELIVERIES, WHEREUPON UNHCR AUTHORIZED LOCAL PURCHASE OF TEN TRUCKS TO EFFECT DELIVERIES OF FOODSTUFFS TO THE VARIOUS CAMPS. WHEN THESE TRUCKS WERE NOT PROMPTLY FORTHCOMING, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, UNHCR FURTHER AUTHORIZED TEMPORARY RENTALS OF TEN MORE TRUCKS TO FILL THE GAP. HE MENTIONED THIS POINT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INDIANA GROUP'S PLANS TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN ONE TRUCK WHICH, HE COMMENTED, WAS CERTAINLY WELCOME BUT WOULD RESOLVE ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TOTAL PROBLEM.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE WAD-EL-HILEIWU TRANSIT CAMP, NO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS SUCH IS OPERATED BY UNHCR IN THE GEDAREF AREA. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO REFUGEES IN THIS REGION ONLY FOR A BRIEF INITIAL PERIOD, AFTER WHICH THEY ARE RESETTLED IN MORE PERMANENT COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY RAISE THEIR OWN FOODSTUFFS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SMALL PROBLEM LAST AUGUST DUE TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE, THERE WAS NO SERIOUS MAL-NUTRITION AMONG THE REFUGEES EVEN DURING THAT TIME. IACOVOU OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONTS TO MOVE THESE REFUGEES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07986 01 OF 02 241451Z

FURTHER BACK FROM THE BORDER. THE FRONTS THEMSELVES CONSIDER THERE IS PLENTY OF FOOD AND WORK AVAILABLE IN THE AREA FOR THE REFUGEE POPULATIONS.

5. WAD-EL-HILEIWU IS THE ONLY CAMP WHICH IS NOT A SETTLEMENT AS SUCH. THERE IS NO LAND UNDER CULTIVATION THERE AND IT IS THEREFORE THE ONLY CAMP WHICH RECEIVES WFP ASSISTANCE. IT SHELTERS SOME 30,000 PEOPLE. UNHCR IS SATISFIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING WHAT IT CAN FOR THIS POPULATION.

6. WHEN IACOVOU INQUIRED AS TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE INDIANA GROUP AND WAS GIVEN THE NAMES IN REF A, HE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THEM AS MEMBERS OF THE ETHIOPIAN RELIEF AND SELF-HELP ORGANIZATION (ERESHO), AND SAID THATUNDoubtedly THEY WERE REFERRING TO THE UMRAKOBA CAMP, A SMALL ONE SHELTERING APPROXIMATELY 700 NON-ERITREAN REFUGEES (ETHIOPIANS). THESE HAVE "SPECIFIC PROBLEMS", PROMINENT AMONG WHICH IS THAT THEY ARE CHRISTIANS IN A MUSLIM COUNTRY. IACOVOU MENTIONED AS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THE MATTER OF MEAT, WHILE ANOTHER HAD TO DO WITH THE PROXIMITY OF THE CAMP TO THE BORDER; (AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED TO REMOVE IT FURTHER FROM THE FRONTIER). IACOVOU FELT THAT

EVEN IN THIS CAMP, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION HAD PROBABLY BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED TO THE VISITORS, AND THAT THERE WAS NO REAL SHORTAGE OF FOOD FOR THE REFUGEES. COMMENT: IACOVOU MENTIONED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE CAMP, THE DOCTOR HAD DISPLAYED A TENDENCY TO EXAGGERATE AND TO PUT FORTH UNUSUAL CASES, SUCH AS EXHIBITING ONE CHILD OR TWO WHO HAD ARRIVED AT THE CAMP IN MALNOURISHED CONDITION, TO MAKE HIS POINT. WE FEEL THAT IACOVOU CONSIDERS THE APPEAL OF THE INDIANA GROUP TO BE BASED ON MISLEADING INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS, STIMULATED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS IN THE PARTICULAR REFUGEES CONCERNED. END COMMENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07986 02 OF 02 241450Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08
ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /063 W
-----101433 241524Z /46

R 241438Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0050
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 07986

7. IACOVOU IS GOING TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION FURTHER AND REPORT BACK IF HIS FINDINGS DIFFER IN ANY RESPECT FROM THOSE GIVEN ABOVE. VANDEN HEUVEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA07986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780219-0110
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780525/aaaaauwp.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe68c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 129021, 78 KHARTOUM 2314
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2592159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN
TAGS: SREF, SU, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe68c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014